GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3207
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2003
COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS
ARUN KUMAR

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of organisations engaged in the collection and distribution of news and write-ups in the country;

(b) the number out of them having recognition of the Union Government;

(c) the quantum of grants/fees/loan provided to them during last three years and till date; and

(d) the norms fixed for recognising them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b): The Press Information Bureau (PIB) grants accreditation, according to prescribed rules tocorrespondents and cameramen/photographers of organisations engaged in collection and distribution of news. As on date, the total number of such organisations on the records of PIB is 42.

(c) An amount of Rs.21,61,330/- and Rs.11,25,609/- during the year 2000 and 2001, respectively, was provided as grant by this Ministry to the Press Trust of India for reimbursement of expenses in respectof their London Bureau, Satellite Channel and Staff cost. No loan has been given to news agencies during the last three years. Fees is a commercial transaction between subscriber and service provider of which no record is maintained by Government.

(d) PIB grants accreditation to representatives of news media organizations including news agencies at theHeadquarters of the Government of India as per `The Central News Media Accreditation Rules, 1999`.